

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3862
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2005
STUDY BY NORDIC AGENCY ON ECOLOGY
Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of a study made by Researchers of Finn Danielsen of Nordic Agency for Development and Ecology, Denmark according to which coastal villages set behind mangrove forests in south-east India suffered much less damage in the tsunami ;
- (b) if so, the details of the study ;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this direction ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Yes,Sir.

(b) The study, which appeared in the magazine `Science`, published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, dated 28th October, 2005 concludes that, in Cuddalore District in Tamil Nadu mangroves and casuarina plantations attenuated tsunami induced waves and protected shorelines against damage. The study also recommends that conserving or replanting coastal mangroves and green belts will act as buffer to communities from future tsunami events. Further, mangroves also enhance fisheries and forestry productions and these benefits are not found in artificial coastal protection structures.

(c)and (d) Central Government have always underlined the importance of mangroves and a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Mangrove Conservation Programme is under implementation since 1987. Under the programme, 35 mangrove areas have been identified for intensive conservation and management in the country. Further, post-tsunami; Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Pondicherry Administrations have initiated green belt development including mangroves conservation, protection and plantation.